1774

NOVEMBER 20, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS

SUBJECT: Public Affairs Guidance for Guyana Support

The Department of Defense is responding to a request from the Department of State for medical and humanitarian assistance in the wake of the recent incidents in Guyana.

An Air Force medical evacuation equipped C-141 returned nine survivors from Georgetown, Guyana, on November 19. Four of the more seriously injured were taken to Naval Air Station Roosevelt Roads; the other five were transported to Andrews AFB and transferred to the base hospital. A C-130 from Howard AFB, Canal Zone, transported State Department officials and a communications team to Georgetown. MAC deployed another C-141 MEDEVAC equipped aircraft from Charleston AFB, SC, with medical personnel aboard, that arrived in Georgetown this morning.

The Department of Defense is also responding to a request from the Department of State to provide the Government of Guyana military forces with rescue and evacuation equipment to support humanitarian operations. The items include helicopters, a small aircraft, light field radios, sleeping bags, C-rations, and related equipment. The possibility of deploying non-combat support personnel is being considered to assist in humanitarian operations.

E N D